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UNCLAS KINSHASA 008501

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PHUM PREL CG
SUBJECT: MORJANE ADDRESSES DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY

REF: KINSHASA 8455

¶1. AMBASSADOR MORJANE ADDRESSED THE ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY DECEMBER 21 TO SUMMARIZE THE POLITICAL/MILITARY SITUATION IN THE DRC AT YEAR'S END, AND TO COMMUNICATE THE DIRECTION OF MONUC IN LIGHT OF UNSC RESOLUTION 1332.

¶2. OVERALL, MORJANE VIEWED THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN THE DRC AS "POSITIVE" COMPARED WITH THE END OF LAST YEAR, AND SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE RECENT SERIES OF REGIONAL DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT THE PEACE PROCESS -- MAPUTO I AND II; THE KINSHASA FRANCOPHONE CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING; TRIPOLI; THE LUSAKA JPC MEETING; AND THE RECENT SIGNATURE OF DISENGAGEMENT "SUB-PLANS" AT HARARE. HOWEVER, MORJANE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO SEE THESE INITIATIVES "COORDINATED TOWARD THE SAME GOAL." MORJANE VIEWED THE CURRENT MEETINGS IN LIBREVILLE POSITIVELY AS WELL, BUT URGED THAT PARTICIPANTS IN THIS AND OTHER INITIATIVES MAINTAIN A COMMON POINT OF REFERENCE: THE LUSAKA ACCORDS. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT ONLY THREE OF THE HARARE SIGNATORIES HAD ACTUALLY ISSUED DISENGAGEMENT ORDERS TO THEIR FORCES.

¶3. WITH REGARD TO UNSC RESOLUTION 1332, MORJANE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT INITIATIVES HE HAD REQUESTED, AND HAD EXPRESSED DIRECTLY TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL, HAD BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION. THE UNSC, HE SAID, HAD DECIDED "TO GIVE THE PARTIES ANOTHER CHANCE -- TO PROVE THEIR GOOD FAITH." HE SPECIFICALLY CITED UNSCR 1332'S PROVISION FOR A POSSIBLE MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WITH SIGNATORIES IN FEBRUARY TO REVIEW PROGRESS IN DISENGAGEMENT, DISARMAMENT, AND WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES. HE POINTED OUT THAT PARAGRAPH 18 EXPRESSED CLEARLY THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSEQUENCES FOR INACTION IN THE FACE OF MOUNTING "INTERNATIONAL FRUSTRATION."

¶4. MORJANE MADE A SPECIAL POINT TO EXPRESS HIS GRAVE CONCERN THAT ZAMBIA MIGHT BE PULLED INTO THE DRC CONFLICT DUE TO THE CURRENT FIGHTING ALONG ITS BORDER. THE AMBASSADOR OPINED THAT THE CRISIS HAD REACHED A PARTICULARLY DELICATE MOMENT, AND SAID THAT "ALL ACTIONS MUST BE BALANCED TOWARD A SOLUTION." FOR HIS PART, THE SRSG SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO PUT A PERMANENT TEAM IN ZAMBIA NEAR THE BORDER IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM THERE.

¶5. MORJANE FINISHED HIS ADDRESS BY LAUNCHING AN APPEAL FOR TROOPS TO REPLACE THE TWO BATTALIONS FROM PAKISTAN ORIGINALLY FORSEEN FOR THE DRC BUT SINCE SENT TO SIERRA LEONE. THERE ARE NOW, HE SAID, ONLY TWO BATTALLIONS SLATED TO COME TO THE DRC, ONE FROM SENEGAL AND ONE FROM MOROCCO.

¶6. AMBASSADOR MORJANE MADE A SPECIAL APPEAL FOR RIVERINE UNITS -- BOATS AND CREWS -- TO REPLACE THE ITALIAN UNITS (PROMISED BUT LATER WITHDRAWN) TO HELP REOPEN THE CONGO RIVER TO COMMERCE BETWEEN MBANDAKA AND KISANGANI -- TWO SITES SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN UNSCR 1332 (OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH EIGHT). MORJANE SAID THAT HE VIEWS AS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL THE "RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACT AMONG THE PROVINCES."
SWING